

Application No. 10/085,333
Amendment dated August 22, 2003
Reply to Office Action of May. 22, 2003

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

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Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (currently amended): The column of Claim 1, A column for providing a vertical support to a building, the column comprising:

a concrete foundation column for planting in an area of earth, a proximal end of said foundation column protruding from said earth when said concrete foundation column is planted therein; and

a wood column, said wood column secured to said proximal end of said concrete foundation column, said wood column substantially vertically oriented wherein said foundation column includes a substantially transverse anchor pin sleeve secured to and positioned adjacent to a distal end of said foundation column, said anchor pin sleeve comprising a tubular member having opposite ends allowing access to a hollow interior thereof.

Claim 3 (original): The column of Claim 2, further comprising:

a anchor pin positioned in said hollow interior of said anchor pin sleeve, said anchor pin having opposing ends, at least one of said opposing ends comprising a protruding end protruding from said anchor pin sleeve.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The column of Claim [1] 2, wherein said foundation column comprises a precast concrete column.

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Claim 5 (currently amended): The column of Claim [1] 2, wherein said foundation column includes at least one reinforcing bar therein.

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Claim 6 (currently amended): The column of Claim [1] 2, wherein said foundation column includes at least one U-shaped reinforcing bar therein.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The column of Claim [1] 2, wherein said foundation column includes four reinforcing bars, said reinforcing bars substantially evenly spaced about a longitudinal axis of said foundation column.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The column of Claim 5, A column for providing a vertical support to a building, the column comprising:

a concrete foundation column for planting in an area of earth, a proximal end of said foundation column protruding from said earth when said concrete foundation column is planted therein; and

a wood column, said wood column secured to said proximal end of said concrete foundation column, said wood column substantially vertically oriented, wherein said foundation column includes at least one reinforcing bar therein, wherein a proximal end of said reinforcing bar is affixed to a column bracket, said column bracket positioned adjacent a proximal end of a concrete column body of said foundation column, said column bracket comprising a base and a pair of depending arms extending from said base, said base positioned adjacent said proximal end of said concrete column body of said foundation column, said arms extending proximally from said proximal end of said concrete column body, said wood column positioned intermediate said arms, said wood column secured to said foundation columns via said column bracket.

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Claim 9 (currently amended): The column of Claim 6, A column for providing a vertical support to a building, the column comprising:

a concrete foundation column for planting in an area of earth, a proximal end of said foundation column protruding from said earth when said concrete foundation column is planted therein; and

a wood column, said wood column secured to said proximal end of said concrete foundation column, said wood column substantially vertically oriented, wherein said foundation column includes at least one U-shaped reinforcing bar therein, wherein said U-shaped reinforcing bar has a pair of ends, said pair of ends affixed to a column bracket, said column bracket positioned adjacent a proximal end of a concrete column body of said foundation column, said column bracket comprising a base and a pair of depending arms extending from said base, said base positioned adjacent said proximal end of said concrete column body of said foundation column, said arms extending proximally from said proximal end of said concrete column body, said wood column positioned intermediate said arms, said wood column secured to said foundation columns via said column bracket.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The column of Claim 7, A column for providing a vertical support to a building, the column comprising:

a concrete foundation column for planting in an area of earth, a proximal end of said foundation column protruding from said earth when said concrete foundation column is planted therein; and

a wood column, said wood column secured to said proximal end of said concrete foundation column, said wood column substantially vertically oriented, wherein said foundation column includes four reinforcing bars, said reinforcing bars substantially evenly spaced about a longitudinal axis of said foundation column, wherein a proximal end of each said reinforcing bar is affixed to a column bracket, said column bracket positioned adjacent a proximal end of a concrete column body of said foundation column, said column bracket comprising a base and a

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pair of depending arms extending from said base, said base positioned adjacent said proximal end of said concrete column body of said foundation column, said arms extending proximally from said proximal end of said concrete column body, said wood column positioned intermediate said arms, said wood column secured to said foundation columns via said column bracket, said foundation column having a plurality of reinforcing bar spacers, each said reinforcing bar spacer affixed to an adjacent pair of reinforcing bars, said reinforcing bar spacers affixed to a substantially distal end of said reinforcing bars.

~~Claim 11 (currently amended): The post frame building of Claim 1, A column for providing a vertical support to a building, the column comprising:~~

a concrete foundation column for planting in an area of earth, a proximal end of said foundation column protruding from said earth when said concrete foundation column is planted therein; and

a wood column, said wood column secured to said proximal end of said concrete foundation column, said wood column substantially vertically oriented, wherein said foundation column includes a column bracket, said column bracket positioned adjacent a proximal end of a concrete column body of said foundation column, said column bracket comprising a base and a pair of depending arms extending from said base, said base positioned adjacent said proximal end of said concrete column body of said foundation column, said arms extending proximally from said proximal end of said concrete column body, said wood column positioned intermediate said arms, said wood column secured to said foundation columns via said column bracket.

Claims 12 - 16 (cancelled)

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Claim 17 (currently amended): The post frame building of Claim 16, A post-frame building, comprising:

a plurality of concrete foundation columns, each said foundation column planted in an area of earth, a proximal end of each said concrete foundation column protruding from said earth;

a plurality of wood columns, said columns secured to said proximal ends of said concrete foundation columns; and

a roofing member attached to said columns, said roofing member defining an exterior roof of the building, said roofing member substantially entirely covering a foot print of the building:

a concrete pad, wherein a distal end of said foundation column is planted in said area of earth and positioned atop and adjacent to said concrete pad, wherein said foundation column includes a substantially transverse anchor pin sleeve secured to and positioned adjacent to said distal end of said foundation column, said anchor pin sleeve comprising a tubular member having opposite ends allowing access to a hollow interior thereof, said post-frame building further comprising:

an anchor pin positioned in said hollow interior of said anchor pin sleeve, said anchor pin having opposing ends, at least one of said opposing ends comprising a protruding end protruding from said anchor pin sleeve.

Claim 18 (original): The post-frame building of Claim 17, further comprising:

a concrete collar surrounding a portion of said foundation column, said protruding end of said anchor pin positioned in said concrete collar, said concrete collar positioned adjacent said concrete pad.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The post-frame building of Claim 12 17, wherein each said foundation column comprises a precast concrete column.

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Claim 20 (original): The post-frame building of Claim 19, wherein each said foundation column contains at least one reinforcing bar therein.

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Claim 21 (original): The post-frame building of Claim 19, wherein each said foundation column contains at least one U-shaped reinforcing bar therein.

Claim 22 (original): The post-frame building of Claim 19, wherein each said foundation column contains four reinforcing bars, said reinforcing bars substantially evenly spaced about a longitudinal axis of said foundation column.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The post frame building of Claim 20, A post-frame building, comprising:

a plurality of concrete foundation columns, each said foundation column planted in an area of earth, a proximal end of each said concrete foundation column protruding from said earth;

a plurality of wood columns, said columns secured to said proximal ends of said concrete foundation columns; and

a roofing member attached to said columns, said roofing member defining an exterior roof of the building, said roofing member substantially entirely covering a foot print of the building;

wherein each said foundation column comprises a precast concrete column;

wherein each said foundation column contains at least one reinforcing bar therein; and
wherein a proximal end of said reinforcing bar is affixed to a column bracket, said column bracket positioned adjacent a proximal end of a concrete column body of said foundation column, said column bracket comprising a base and a pair of depending arms extending from said base, said base positioned adjacent said proximal end of said concrete column body of said foundation column, said arms extending proximally from said proximal end of said concrete

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column body, one of said wood columns positioned intermediate said arms, said wood columns secured to said foundation columns via said column bracket.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The post frame building of Claim 21, A post-frame building comprising:

a plurality of concrete foundation columns, each said foundation column planted in an area of earth, a proximal end of each said concrete foundation column protruding from said earth;

a plurality of wood columns, said columns secured to said proximal ends of said concrete foundation columns; and

a roofing member attached to said columns, said roofing member defining an exterior roof of the building, said roofing member substantially entirely covering a foot print of the building;

wherein each said foundation column comprises a precast concrete column;

wherein each said foundation column contains at least one U-shaped reinforcing bar therein; and wherein said U-shaped reinforcing bar has a pair of ends, said pair of ends affixed to a column bracket, said column bracket positioned adjacent a proximal end of a concrete column body of said foundation column, said column bracket comprising a base and a pair of depending arms extending from said base, said base positioned adjacent said proximal end of said concrete column body of said foundation column, said arms extending proximally from said proximal end of said concrete column body, one of said wood columns positioned intermediate said arms, said wood columns secured to said foundation columns via said column bracket.

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Claim 25 (currently amended): The post frame building of Claim 22, A post-frame building, comprising:

a plurality of concrete foundation columns, each said foundation column planted in an area of earth, a proximal end of each said concrete foundation column protruding from said earth;

a plurality of wood columns, said columns secured to said proximal ends of said concrete foundation columns; and

a roofing member attached to said columns, said roofing member defining an exterior roof of the building, said roofing member substantially entirely covering a foot print of the building;

wherein each said foundation column comprises a precast concrete column;

wherein each said foundation column contains four reinforcing bars, said reinforcing bars substantially evenly spaced about a longitudinal axis of said foundation column; and

wherein a proximal end of each said reinforcing bar is affixed to a column bracket, said column bracket positioned adjacent a proximal end of a concrete column body of said foundation column, said column bracket comprising a base and a pair of depending arms extending from said base, said base positioned adjacent said proximal end of said concrete column body of said foundation column, said arms extending proximally from said proximal end of said concrete column body, one of said wood columns positioned intermediate said arms, said wood columns secured to said foundation columns via said column bracket, said foundation column having a plurality of reinforcing bar spacers, each said reinforcing bar spacer affixed to an adjacent pair of reinforcing bars, said reinforcing bar spacers affixed to a substantially distal end of said reinforcing bars.

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Claim 26 (currently amended): The post-frame building of Claim 12, A post-frame building, comprising:

a plurality of concrete foundation columns, each said foundation column planted in an area of earth, a proximal end of each said concrete foundation column protruding from said earth;

a plurality of wood columns, said columns secured to said proximal ends of said concrete foundation columns; and

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a roofing member attached to said columns, said roofing member defining an exterior roof of the building, said roofing member substantially entirely covering a foot print of the building, wherein each said anchor post foundation column includes a column bracket, said column bracket positioned adjacent a proximal end of a concrete column body of said foundation column, said column bracket comprising a base and a pair of depending arms extending from said base, said base positioned adjacent said proximal end of said concrete column body of said foundation column, said arms extending proximally from said proximal end of said concrete column body, one of said wood columns positioned intermediate said arms, said wood columns secured to said foundation columns via said column bracket.

Claim 27 (cancelled)

Claim 28 (currently amended): The method of Claim 27, A method of constructing a post-frame building, comprising:

planting a plurality of concrete foundation columns in the earth about a perimeter of the building;

affixing a wood column to each said foundation column, said wood column being substantially vertically oriented when affixed to foundation column; and

constructing the building using the wood columns as vertical supports.

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wherein each said foundation column includes a substantially transverse anchor pin sleeve secured to and positioned adjacent to a distal end of said foundation column, said anchor pin sleeve comprising a tubular member having opposite ends allowing access to a hollow interior thereof, said method further comprising the following steps prior to the step of planting a plurality of concrete foundation columns about a perimeter of the building:

providing a plurality of anchor pins sized to traverse said hollow interior of said anchor pin sleeves;

positioning said anchor pins in said anchor pin sleeves, said anchor pins having opposing ends, at least one of said opposing ends comprising a protruding end protruding from said anchor pin sleeves;

forming a plurality of holes in the earth, each hole accommodating one of said plurality of foundation columns;

placing a concrete pad in a distal end of each said hole;

positioning each said foundation column atop one of said concrete pads;

vertically orienting each said foundation column;

pouring a concrete collar about a distal end of each said foundation column, said concrete collar encompassing said anchor pin; and

back-filling each said hole.

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Claim 29 (currently amended): The method of Claim 27, A method of constructing a post-frame building, comprising:

planting a plurality of concrete foundation columns in the earth about a perimeter of the building;

affixing a wood column to each said foundation column, said wood column being substantially vertically oriented when affixed to foundation column; and

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constructing the building using the wood columns as vertical supports, wherein each said foundation column contains at least one reinforcing bar therein.

Claim 30 (currently amended): The method of Claim 27, A method of constructing a post-frame building, comprising:

planting a plurality of concrete foundation columns in the earth about a perimeter of the building;

affixing a wood column to each said foundation column, said wood column being substantially vertically oriented when affixed to foundation column; and

constructing the building using the wood columns as vertical supports, wherein each said foundation column contains at least one U-shaped reinforcing bar therein.

Claim 31 (currently amended): The method of Claim 27, A method of constructing a post-frame building, comprising:

planting a plurality of concrete foundation columns in the earth about a perimeter of the building;

affixing a wood column to each said foundation column, said wood column being substantially vertically oriented when affixed to foundation column; and

constructing the building using the wood columns as vertical supports, wherein each said foundation column contains four reinforcing bars, said reinforcing bars substantially evenly spaced about a longitudinal axis of said foundation column.

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Claim 32 (original): The method of Claim 29, wherein a proximal end of said reinforcing bar is affixed to a column bracket, said column bracket positioned adjacent a proximal end of a concrete column body of said foundation column, said column bracket comprising a base and a pair of depending arms extending from said base, said base positioned adjacent said proximal end of said concrete column body of said foundation column, said arms extending proximally from said proximal end of said concrete column body, and wherein said step of affixing a wood column to each said foundation column comprises the steps of:

positioning said wood column intermediate said arms; and
securing said wood column to said foundation columns via said column bracket.

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Claim 33 (original): The method of Claim 30, wherein said U-shaped reinforcing bar has a pair of ends, said pair of ends affixed to a column bracket, said column bracket positioned adjacent a proximal end of a concrete column body of said foundation column, said column bracket comprising a base and a pair of depending arms extending from said base, said base positioned adjacent said proximal end of said concrete column body of said foundation column, said arms extending proximally from said proximal end of said concrete column body, and wherein said step of affixing a wood column to each said foundation column comprises the steps of:

positioning said wood column intermediate said arms; and
securing said wood column to said foundation columns via said column bracket.

Claim 34 (currently amended): The ~~column~~ method of Claim 31, wherein a proximal end of each said reinforcing bar is affixed to a column bracket, said column bracket positioned adjacent a proximal end of a concrete column body of said foundation column, said column bracket comprising a base and a pair of depending arms extending from said base, said base positioned adjacent said proximal end of said concrete column body of said foundation column, said arms extending proximally from said proximal end of said concrete column body, said foundation column having a plurality of reinforcing bar spacers, each said reinforcing bar spacer affixed to

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an adjacent pair of reinforcing bars, said reinforcing bar spacers affixed to a substantially distal end of said reinforcing bars, and wherein said step of affixing a wood column to each said foundation column comprises the steps of:

positioning said wood column intermediate said arms; and

securing said wood column to said foundation columns via said column bracket.

Claim 35 (currently amended): The post frame building of Claim 27, A method of constructing a post-frame building, comprising:

planting a plurality of concrete foundation columns in the earth about a perimeter of the building;

affixing a wood column to each said foundation column, said wood column being substantially vertically oriented when affixed to foundation column; and

constructing the building using the wood columns as vertical supports, wherein said foundation column includes a column bracket, said column bracket positioned adjacent a proximal end of a concrete column body of said foundation column, said column bracket comprising a base and a pair of depending arms extending from said base, said base positioned adjacent said proximal end of said concrete column body of said foundation column, said arms extending proximally from said proximal end of said concrete column body, and wherein said step of affixing a wood column to each said foundation column comprises the steps of:

positioning said wood column intermediate said arms; and

securing said wood column to said foundation columns via said column bracket.